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Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 40
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 2 April 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government and further to my previous letters on the same subject, I have the honour to convey to you hereunder a list of the violations and infringements that were committed by Israel against Lebanon in the period from 15 to 29 March 2001. Lebanon regards these incidents as an extension of Israel's aggression against its people and territory.

15 March 2001

At 1245 hours Israeli enemy forces on the occupied Palestine side of the Fatimah Gate, using a pneumatic drill, broke up the concrete bunker mentioned in document A/55/841-S/2001/243 as having been towed from the Lebanese side of the Gate on 14 April.

At 1545 and 1605 hours Israeli occupation forces at the Ramta hill outpost in the occupied Shab'a farmlands directed a number of bursts of medium-machine-gun fire at surrounding areas.

16 March 2001

At 1015 and 1235 hours an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the Marj Uyun and Bint Jubayl areas at very high altitude.

At 2140 hours Israeli forces at the Radar hill outpost in the occupied Shab'a farmlands launched three illumination flares and fired two direct-fire rounds at surrounding areas.

17 March 2001

At 0900 and 1200 hours an Israeli military bulldozer removed the 200-metre-long barbed-wire strip that had been deployed along the road between the Israeli outposts at Ramta hill and Summaqah hill.

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Between 0900 and 1610 hours a bulldozer and a Poclain backhoe belonging to the Israeli enemy forces were working on both sides of the road leading to the outpost at Mazra'at Fashkul in the occupied Shab'a farmlands.

18 March 2001

Between 1130 and 1225 hours Israeli warplanes overflew all parts of Lebanon at very high altitudes, breaking the sound barrier.

19 March 2001

Between 0800 and 1615 hours a bulldozer belonging to the Israeli forces was working along the road leading to the Israeli outpost at Mazra'at Fashkul in the occupied Shab'a farmlands.

Between 1520 and 1615 hours two Israeli helicopters flew over the occupied Shab'a farmlands.

Between 0800 and 1745 hours two Israeli Merkavah tanks were seen in position to the south-west of Abbasiyah inside the territory of occupied Palestine. They then left in the direction of the occupied Shab'a farmlands.

Between 1155 and 1350 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South and Mount Lebanon at various altitudes and were engaged by Army anti-aircraft artillery units based at Mukhayyam Bayt al-Din and Ma'asir Bayt al-Din.

Israeli forces established a fixed observation post to the west of Ghajar opposite the hut erected by the Council for the South in connection with the pumping of water to Wazzani town. The post overlooks the Wazzani river vicinity, and frequent patrols in the area were reported.

At 1305 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South at low altitudes and the Iqlim al-Kharrub area at high altitudes.

Between 1310 and 1415 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South at very high altitudes.

Between 1900 and 1945 hours two Israeli helicopters flew over the occupied Shab'a farmlands.

At 2230 and 2245 hours two Israeli helicopters and an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft flew over the occupied Shab'a farmlands.

20 March 2001

Between 1025 and 1125 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Marj Uyun-Hasbayya area at very high altitudes, breaking the sound barrier.

Between 1420 and 1430 hours Israeli forces were blasting rocks in the occupied Shab'a farmlands.

Between 1500 and 1530 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South at very high altitudes, reaching as far as the Tripoli and Batrun offshore areas and breaking the sound barrier.

Between 1530 and 1700 hours occupying Israeli forces at the Summaqah outpost in the occupied Shab'a farmlands directed a number of bursts of medium-

weapons fire and fired four 120-mm mortar rounds at surrounding areas and into the farmlands towards the town of Hilta.

21 March 2001

Between 1340 and 1400 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South at very high altitudes.

Between 2010 and 2030 hours Israeli enemy forces at the position in the town of Risha in the occupied territories launched four illumination flares over the Lebanese town of Dahirah.

22 March 2001

Between 1030 and 1035 hours Israeli enemy forces strafed the area around their outpost at Ramta hill in the occupied Shab`a farmlands with medium-weapons fire.

At 1145 hours Israeli forces released a balloon over Misgav Am hill from the Israeli side. They also installed a new monitoring camera on the Abbad position.

At 1037 hours an Israeli patrol consisting of two jeeps was seen at a halt to the east of the occupied town of Ghajar in the Abbasiyah direction.

At 1040 hours a stationary Israeli tank was seen on the road to the Fashkul outpost at the approach to the occupied Mughr Shab`a locality.

At 1100 hours a Poclain excavator and an Israeli bulldozer were seen working at a newly established position in the Abbasiyah area to the south-west of the vehicle depot of the fugitive Lahad supporters.

23 March 2001

Between 0805 and 0810 hours Israeli forces at the Ramta hill outpost in the occupied Shab`a farmlands directed a number of bursts of medium-machine-gun fire at surrounding areas.

Between 1205 and 1215 hours Israeli forces at the Ramta hill outpost and Zibdin in the occupied Shab`a farmlands fired a 120-mm mortar round and directed a number of bursts of medium-machine-gun fire at surrounding areas.

Between 1810 and 1840 hours Israeli forces at the Himari hill position opposite Wazzani town directed a number of bursts of medium-machine-gun fire at surrounding areas.

Between 1400 and 1410 hours Israeli forces at the Ramta hill outpost in the occupied Shab`a farmlands directed a number of bursts of medium-weapons fire at surrounding areas. There were also two unexplained explosions in the Mughr Shab`a area in the occupied Shab`a farmlands.

25 March 2001

Between 1240 and 1400 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Hasbayya and Marj Uyun areas at very high altitudes.

Between 1630 and 1750 hours Israeli forces at the Ramta and Ruwaysat al-Alam outposts in the occupied Shab`a farmlands fired three 81-mm mortar rounds

that impacted in the vicinity of the Ruwaysat al-Alam outpost and outlying areas of Mazra`at Hilta in the liberated territories towards the occupied farmlands.

26 March 2001

Between 1120 and 1130 hours an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the Bint Jubayl area at very high altitude.

Between 1620 and 1800 hours an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the Zahrani area at very high altitude.

Between 2145 and 2310 hours two Israeli enemy helicopters flew over the occupied Shab`a farmlands before leaving in the direction of the occupied territories.

27 March 2001

Between 1945 and 2045 hours an Israeli helicopter flew over the Misgav Am settlement and two Israeli helicopters flew over the occupied Shab`a farmlands before leaving in the direction of the occupied territories.

Between 1130 and 1230 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South, Mount Lebanon, the North and the Bekaa at very high altitudes, breaking the sound barrier.

28 March 2001

At 1145 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Aqrub and the South at high altitudes.

At 1200 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South and the Hasbayya and Marj Uyun areas at moderate altitudes.

Between 1030 and 1100 hours two Israeli helicopters flew over the occupied Shab`a farmlands.

Between 1145 and 1210 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Mount Lebanon and the North at very high altitudes.

Between 1155 and 1245 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South at very high altitudes, releasing heat balloons in the Jazzin area.

29 March 2001

Between 1650 and 1845 hours Israeli enemy forces at the Ramta hill and Summaqah hill outposts in the occupied Shab`a farmlands directed a number of bursts of medium-machine-gun fire at surrounding areas. There were also three unexplained explosions in the vicinity of the two outposts and, at the same time, two Israeli helicopters flew over the occupied farmlands.

At 1835 hours two Israeli helicopters flew over the Summaqah and Ruwaysat al-Alam outposts in an outlying area of Kafr Shuba in the occupied Shab`a farmlands.

At 1855 hours there was an explosion in the vicinity of the Ramta outpost in the Shab`a farmlands.

Like the previous Israeli violations of which it represents a continuation, this latest series is in flagrant violation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978) and of Lebanon's sovereignty and poses a threat to stability in the region.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 40, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sélim **Tadmoury**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations A/55/869

General Assembly

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Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 132
Financing of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone

Financial performance report of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone for the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) for the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000 (A/55/853). During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information.

2. UNAMSIL was established by the Security Council in its resolution 1270 (1999) of 22 October 1999. In the same resolution, the Council also decided that UNAMSIL would take over the substantive civilian and military components and functions of the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone (UNOMSIL), and that the mandate of UNOMSIL should terminate immediately on the establishment of UNAMSIL. Accordingly, the performance report of the Secretary-General for UNAMSIL for the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000 also incorporates expenditures related to the operation of UNOMSIL.

3. The General Assembly, in its resolutions 54/241 A and B of 23 December 1999 and 15 June 2000, respectively, appropriated for United Nations Missions in Sierra Leone for the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000 a total amount of $265,789,000 gross ($264,371,600 net). This amount was assessed on Member States. The Advisory Committee was informed that, since the inception of the Missions, total assessment on Member States amounted to $588.1 million, against which a payment of $346.0 million had been received at 28 February 2001, leaving an outstanding balance of $242.1 million.

4. The financial performance report of UNAMSIL for the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000 (A/55/853) reflects expenditures in the amount of $263,338,200 gross ($262,035,200 net), resulting in an unencumbered balance of $2,450,800 gross ($2,336,400 net). The unencumbered balance is net of under-expenditure for several objects of expenditure (military personnel — $14.4 million, civilian personnel — $0.9 million, other programmes — $0.9 million and staff assessment — $0.1 million) and over-expenditure of $13.9 million under operational requirements, as presented in annex I to the report of the Secretary-General. The Committee notes from footnote c to table 1 of the report that expenditures of $263,338,200 include an amount of $155,917,100 in unliquidated obligations at 30 June 2000. The Committee was informed that the amount of unliquidated obligations had decreased as at 23 March

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2001 to $69.5 million. The cash position of the Mission was $96.7 million at 26 March 2001.

5. According to the Secretary-General, the unencumbered balance of $2.4 million was largely attributable to the lower cost of rations, non-rotation of military personnel, as well as savings resulted from the transfer of vehicles and various equipment from the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, and other missions; additional requirements for air operations, contingent-owned equipment and transportation by air of contingent-owned equipment to Sierra Leone, were attributable to the rapid reinforcement and expansion of the military component of the Mission in May and June 2000.

6. Paragraphs 19 to 21 of the report of the Secretary-General deal with the application of article IV of the financial regulations of the United Nations. According to the Secretary-General, there are currently certain amounts obligated for reimbursement to Governments for death and disability compensations, contingent-owned equipment and self-sustainment that need to be retained beyond the period stipulated under financial regulations 4.3 and 4.4. The special arrangements as regards article IV of the financial regulations, which are similar to those contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 53/238 of 8 June 1999, are described in paragraph 21 of the report. **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the special arrangements.**

7. The Advisory Committee was informed that during the period from the inception of the Mission to 28 February 2001, two claims under death and disability compensation had been certified for payment for a total amount of $0.1 million, leaving the balance of unliquidated obligations under this budget line at $2.0 million at 26 February 2001; there are 26 reported incidents that may result in claims.

8. The action to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of UNAMSIL is indicated in paragraph 22 of document A/55/853. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the unencumbered balance of $2,450,800 gross ($2,336,400 net) for the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000 be credited to Member States in a manner to be decided by the General Assembly.**

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Agenda item 137
Financing of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force

Final disposition of the assets of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the final disposition of the assets of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP) contained in document A/55/390. During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information.

2. The report of the Secretary-General (A/55/390) is submitted pursuant to section VII of General Assembly resolution 49/233 A of 23 December 1994, in which the Assembly endorsed the proposals of the Secretary-General on the disposition of the assets of peacekeeping operations. According to the Secretary-General, the inventory value of the assets of the Force as at 1 March 2000 amounted to some $20.2 million, 46 per cent of which have been transferred to the other peacekeeping operations or to the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy (UNLB) for temporary storage.

3. As indicated in the report (ibid., para. 6 (b) (i)), assets with an inventory value of $5,202,600 were sold for $2,391,500 (excluding expendable assets with a value of $480,900) to other organizations or within the mission area. The Committee notes that two of the purchasing organizations, the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, are funded from assessed budgets. The Secretariat acknowledged, upon enquiry, that assets had been sold to the International Tribunal and the Office of the High Commissioner due to an error. The Committee was also informed that in future the Department of Peacekeeping Operations would ensure that United Nations activities financed from assessed contributions are not invoiced for equipment.

4. Information on losses of United Nations property is contained in the Secretary-General's report. The Advisory Committee notes that assets with an inventory value

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of $79,600 had been written off as unaccounted for due to the fact that the liquidation team was not able to identify the names of the officials who received some of the equipment provided to the battalions, including items of welfare, catering, petroleum and miscellaneous equipment (ibid., para. 7 (a)). The Committee was informed that in some cases the problems resulted from the fact that the receiving officials were military personnel, who were subject to transfer every six months. The Committee was also informed, upon enquiry, of the following:

> "Prior to the introduction of the new procedures for the reimbursement of contingent-owned equipment, the standard policy was to assign United Nations-owned items in bulk to the representative of military contingents, normally a commanding officer or a logistics officer. He/she would sign for the assets and the list of issued equipment would be maintained in a database against the name of the contingent. Upon the contingent's withdrawal, during exit check-out procedures, all issued United Nations-owned equipment would be returned and checked against records in a database. However, assets would often be unaccounted for and accountability would be hampered by the frequent rotation of military personnel over the life-span of the mission. These issues have been largely resolved with the introduction of the new procedures for contingent-owned equipment and the field assets control system".

The Committee trusts that since the field assets control system is fully operational, instances of inability to identify the names of the officials who receive assets would be reduced. The Committee also recommends that, as a general rule, United Nations officials should be designated to receive, inspect and report on equipment provided to missions.

5. The Advisory Committee recalls that it had recommended that proceeds from the sale of assets of United Nations peacekeeping operations should be shown as miscellaneous income in performance reports. The representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Committee that this would be implemented.

6. The Secretary-General seeks authority from the General Assembly for the transfer to the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia of assets with a total inventory value of $1,705,200 and a corresponding residual value of $835,300. The Advisory Committee notes that the transfer has already been made under "temporary possession" arrangements, pending the approval of the General Assembly (ibid., para. 6 (b) (ii)). Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the transfer was made in March 1999, following the determination by the liquidation team, and concurred with by Headquarters, that it was not economical to secure, dismantle, ship and do site restoration. **In this particular case the Committee recommends the approval of the transfer, but, as a matter of principle, recommends that proposals on such grants of temporary possession should in the future be submitted to the Committee once it has been determined that transfers are going to be made but prior to actual transfer, whether under "temporary possession" arrangements or otherwise.**

7. The Advisory Committee was informed that the final report on the liquidation of UNPREDEP will be submitted to the resumed fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly. The final performance report will contain details of the liquidation exercise, including the settlement of the receivable and payable claims, the reconciliation of bank accounts, the reconciliation of Headquarters and field inter-office vouchers, the recoveries from other United Nations missions, the follow-up

with the Headquarters Property Survey Board on cases of losses of United Nations property and the settlement of travel and other personnel claims. The Committee recalls its observation, reflected in its previous report on UNPREDEP, that "as more missions are liquidated, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations takes on more residual liquidation activities. It is essential, therefore, that the Department review its capacity in this area so that undue delays are not experienced in the final phase of the liquidation of missions" (A/54/824, para. 9).

8. **The Advisory Committee recommends that a final liquidation report contain information on the evaluation and results of the liquidation process: how the liquidation plan was implemented, whether the resources, including staffing, had been sufficient, any other challenges encountered and steps taken to address them.**